



STRANGE TALES

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP 12¢

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117
FEB.

FEATURING THE FLAMING,
FIGHTING, HIGH-FLYING

HUMAN TORCH!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
PROUDLY PRESENTS —
"THE RETURN OF
THE
EEL!"

ONE OF THE MOST ELUSIVE
SUPER-CRIMINALS
OF ALL TIME !!



ALSO FEATURING :

DOCTOR STRANGE
in
"THE TERRIBLE TRAPS OF
BARON MORDO!"

**YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT IT!
YOU'VE READ ABOUT IT!**

**WORLD'S SMALLEST
WRIST RADIO**

ALL-TRANSISTOR WRIST WATCH TYPE RADIO

LOUD—CLEAR RECEPTION GUARANTEED!

**COMPLETE WITH BATTERIES—STAINLESS BAND
NOTHING ELSE TO BUY—COMPLETELY ASSEMBLED**

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complete

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To Delight Every Man, Woman, Girl and Boy

Be the first in your neighborhood to own this amazing Niresk All Transistor Wrist Radio. Music, News, Sports now available to you 24 hours a day. Imagine, being the proud owner of a radio less than 2 inches square. The unit is installed in a highly shock resistant case and comes with a beautiful stainless wrist band. The 2 tiny mercury hearing aid batteries are guaranteed to play for 100 hours. Batteries are obtainable everywhere for about 35c.

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SIZE**

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SENSATIONAL FEATURES!**

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- Lightweight — compact
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- Especially designed for local reception
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Please rush on 10 day Free Trial the Niresk All-Transistor Wrist Radio. I must be 100% satisfied or my money will be refunded in full after 10 days.

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Address

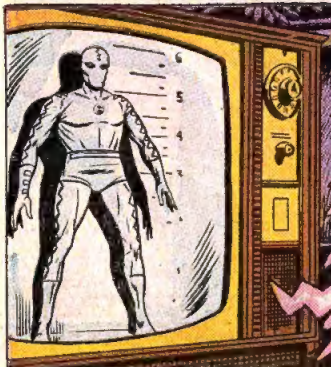
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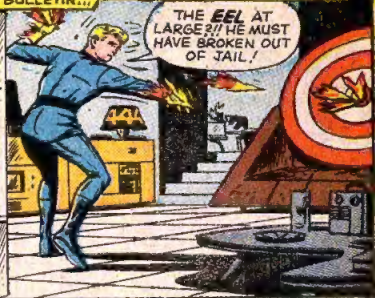
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VERY OFTEN, THE MOST HAIR-RAISING ADVENTURE CAN START IN A COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED WAY—AS WHEN JOHNNY STORM, IDLY TOSSING FLAME DARTS IN HIS BASEMENT PLAYROOM, HEARS A STARTLING TV NEWS BULLETIN...

IT HAS JUST BEEN LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS OF OUR TIME, THE POWERFUL PUBLIC ENEMY KNOWN AS **THE EEL**, IS NOW AT LARGE AGAIN!



the **HUMAN TORCH**

"THE RETURN OF **THE EEL!**"

I BEAT HIM IN THE PAST*
AND I CAN BEAT HIM **AGAIN!**
FIRST THING TO DO IS STREAK
TO THE PRISON AND GET ALL
THE INFO I CAN FROM THE
WARDEN!

**FLAME
ON!**

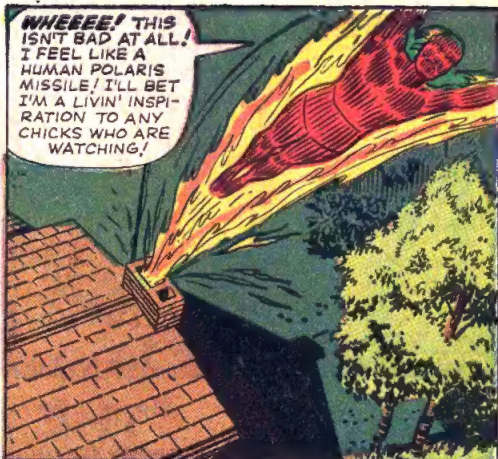
JOHNNY, WAIT! I
JUST HUNG THOSE
NEW DRAPES—THEY'RE
NOT FIREPROOF! IF
YOU *SINGE* THEM,
LITTLE BROTHER, I'LL

WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY:
DICK AYERS
LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK

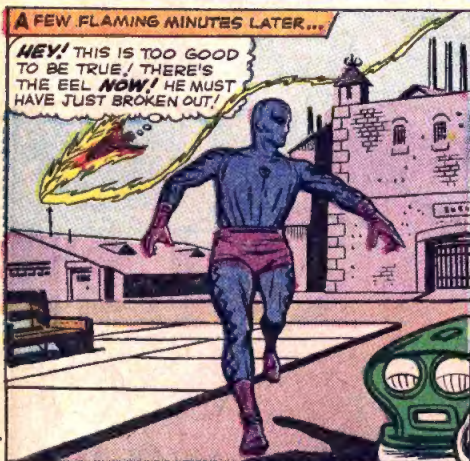
* STRANGE
TALES #112,
"THE LIVING
BOMB!"



OKAY, BIG SISTER, I'LL USE THE **CHIMNEY** INSTEAD! BUT IT'S A HECK OF A NOTE WHEN A **FLAMING GLAMOR-BOY** LIKE ME GETS YELLED AT BECAUSE OF A NEW SET OF **DRAPES!**



WHEEEE! THIS ISN'T BAD AT ALL! I FEEL LIKE A **HUMAN POLARIS MISSILE!** I'LL BET I'M A LIVIN' INSPIRATION TO ANY CHICKS WHO ARE WATCHING!



A FEW FLAMING MINUTES LATER...

HEY! THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! THERE'S THE EEL **NOW!** HE MUST HAVE JUST BROKEN OUT!



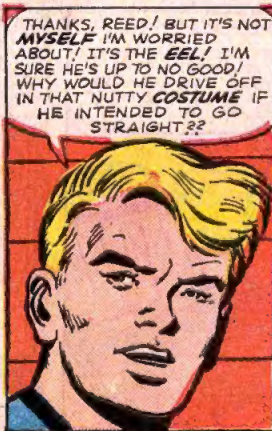
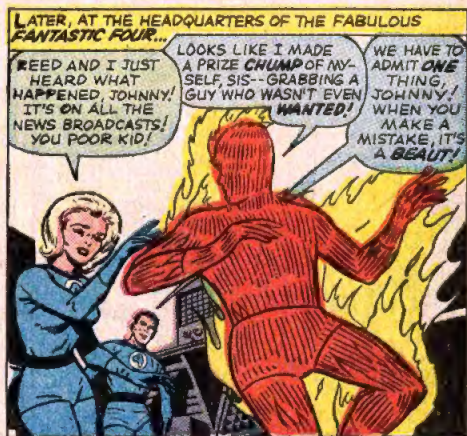
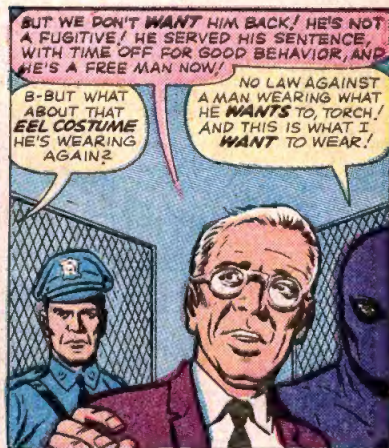
OKAY, SONNY BOY, PLAY-TIME'S OVER! SO START TROTTERING BACK TO YOUR COZY LITTLE CELL!

THE **TORCH!** GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU FLAMING BRAT! THIS IS NO BUSINESS OF **YOURS!**



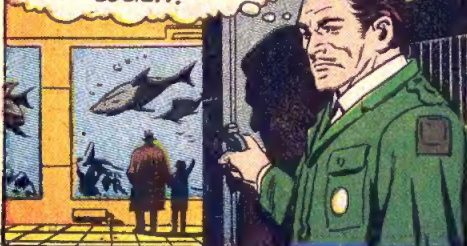
I'M JUST **MAKING** IT MY BUSINESS, PAL! NOW START WALKING IF YOU DON'T WANT THAT CIRCLE OF FLAME TO GET ANY CLOSER!

CUT IT OUT, YOU MANIAC! OKAY, OKAY-- I'LL GO-- BUT YOU'LL **REGRET** THIS, **TORCH!**



BUT, ARE THE TORCH'S APPREHENSIONS REALLY JUSTIFIED? IN ORDER TO FIND OUT, LET US LOOK INSIDE THE MAIN HALL OF OCEAN VIEW AQUARIUM, WHERE WE FIND THE CARETAKER, **LEOPOLD STRYKE**, BACK ON THE JOB AGAIN AFTER A LONG ABSENCE!

I **KNEW** THEY'D GIVE ME MY OLD JOB BACK AGAIN! --- ESPECIALLY WHEN I GAVE 'EM THAT SOB STORY ABOUT PAYING MY DEBT TO SOCIETY!



BESIDES, I'M THE BEST CARETAKER THIS AQUARIUM EVER **HAD!** I'VE GOT A WAY WITH FISH, AND THEY **KNOW** IT!

THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO CALL MYSELF THE **EEL** WHEN I EMBARKED ON MY CAREER OF CRIME! BECAUSE I'M AS SLIPPERY, AND AS **DANGEROUS** AS THE ELECTRIC EEL!



I STILL HAVE MY SPECIALLY-BUILT HELICOPTER HIDDEN SAFELY AWAY, AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER TOOLS OF MY CHOSEN TRADE! AND THIS AQUARIUM MAKES A PERFECT BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR ME!



WELL, IT'S FEEDING TIME FOR MY ELECTRIC EELS NOW... AND I WOULDN'T DREAM OF LETTING MY SUPERCHARGED LITTLE FRIENDS GO HUNGRY!

LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER THE EELS AND THE OTHER SEA-GOING CREATURES HAVE BEEN FED, LEOPOLD STRYKE REPAIRS TO HIS PRIVATE ROOM, AT THE REAR OF THE AQUARIUM...



HOW **GOOD** IT FELT TO WEAR MY EEL COSTUME WHEN I LEFT THE JAIL! BUT I ONLY DID IT FOR A LARK!

HOWEVER, **NOW** I SHALL WEAR IT FOR A MORE **SERIOUS** PURPOSE! IT IS TIME FOR ME TO TEST OUT ALL THE SECRET **IMPROVEMENTS** I'VE MADE ON MY PROTECTIVE SUIT!

I'VE WIRED THE ENTIRE FABRIC SO THAT IT CAN GIVE OFF ELECTRICAL CHARGES, JUST LIKE MY LITTLE NAME-SAKES! AND I'VE ARRANGED **OTHER** SURPRISES FOR ANY WHO DARE OPPOSE ME!



AND NOW, MY GLEAMING, SQUIRMING LITTLE FRIENDS, THE **EEL** IS AGAIN READY TO STRIKE! BUT **THIS** TIME NOTHING SHALL STOP ME! AND IF THE **HUMAN TORCH** DARES TO INTERFERE, HE WILL LEARN THAT THE POWER OF THE **EEL** IS FAR GREATER THAN HIS OWN!



MEANTIME, THE TORCH IS RESTLESS! BEFORE SLEEPING, HE DECIDES TO PATROL THE CITY--SEARCHING FOR ANY SIGNS OF THE **EEL**!

SO FAR SO GOOD! EVERYTHING IS QUIET BELOW!

BUT, FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT IN THE SKY, THE FLAMING FIREBRAND CANNOT SEE THE SILENT, BLUE-GLAD FIGURE WHO STEALTHILY LOWERS HIMSELF BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE SLEEPING CITY...

IF I KNOW THE TORCH, HE WILL BE KEEPING HIS EYE ON BANKS, JEWELRY STORES AND THE LIKE, WAITING FOR ME TO STRIKE! BUT I'M TOO SMART FOR HIM!

I'LL STEAL SOMETHING EQUALLY AS VALUABLE AS MONEY-- BUT SOMETHING WHICH THAT BLAZING BRAT WON'T EVEN **THINK** OF GUARDING, UNTIL TOO LATE!

MINUTES LATER, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE SPRAWLING CITY, A HEAVY GREY MANHOLE COVER IS CAUTIOUSLY RAISED AS A PAIR OF PIERCING EYES SURVEY THE SCENE WITH GRIM SATISFACTION!

SO FAR SO GOOD! NOW TO PROVE THAT THE ELUSIVE **EEL** HAS LOST NONE OF HIS CUNNING!

THIS IS THE PLACE I HAVE BEEN SEEKING! THE OFFICE OF THE CITY'S LEADING **STAMP COLLECTOR** SHOP! I NOTICED AN ARTICLE IN THIS MORNING'S PAPER MENTIONING THAT THE STAMPS WHICH ARE KEPT HERE ARE ALMOST **PRICE-LESS!**

HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE BURGLAR ALARM WITH A SIMPLE ELECTRICAL CHARGE!

THERE GOES THE TORCH, ON HIS USELESS PATROL OF THE CITY! THE YOUNG FOOL! I'LL BE SAFELY BACK AT THE AQUARIUM BEFORE HE EVEN REALIZES A SENSATIONAL ROBBERY HAS BEEN COMMITTED!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE..

FROM OUTER SPACE

IT HAD been expected for a long time, so it wasn't too much of a shock when the first visitors from outer space made contact with the world. For quite a number of years, science-fiction novels, movies and television programs had been playing up this inevitable fact, and scientists and physicists had been making great progress in our own space travel. Of course, the space platforms had only been completed two years before by the United Nations, so contact hadn't really been expected this soon. It had been thought too, that when contact was made with our galaxy neighbors, it would be made by us, and not by that strange spaceship standing up there in the black void like a sentinel, waiting for us to make the first move.

Jonathan Dittmar probably knew more about the visitors than any other earthman, and that wasn't much. Jonathan had been head of the U.N. Commission to build and control the space platform, and as one of the leading scientists of the day, he had all the facts of space travel and its problems at his fingertips. It wasn't unusual then, for him to be chosen also as head of the Commission to deal with the visitors from outer space and arrange the first meeting between them and earth.

"I suppose you all know the facts, gentlemen," Jonathan spoke to the Earth Peace Commission. "The visitors have not, as yet, attempted to make any

contact with us through the usual means of communication . . . radio, television . . . nor have they made any attempt to come into our gravitational field to contact us directly. They are just sitting up there," he pointed vaguely toward the stars with his hand, "and they seem to be waiting for us to come to them."

"Surely they have seen our space platform," one of the members wondered.

"They must have," Jonathan said. "It passes directly within their field of vision every two hours."

"Do you think they have telescopes or television screens powerful enough to observe us down here on earth?" another man questioned.

"I'm sure they do," Jonathan told the men. "Any civilization who can pull themselves out of their own planet's gravitational field must have these technical instruments. We are observing them with our radar and television; there is no reason to believe that they are not doing the same with us."

There were more questions and answers, and invariably Jonathan was able to work out probable answers and solutions. The end decision was the only thing it could have been. The Commission was to take one of the space ferries up to the space platform and attempt from there to make contact with the strangers.

Still nothing was heard from

the space visitors by the time the Commission was to blast off. The men were as prepared as they could be, but Jonathan was worried. The same questions ran through each of their minds. "What kind of 'things' will the visitors be?" "Will any verbal contact be possible?" and most important of all, "What will they expect from us?"

The trip to the space platform from Earth was over within two hours, and when the six members of the Commission disembarked on the bleak, dark space platform, they found that the alien ship had guessed their intention and had sent a smaller envoy ship with their own Committee to the platform too. Now the time was at hand. The Earthmen stood in the middle of the field staring at the small, strange ship hovering only a few feet beyond. Finally, the men saw the ramp of the foreign vessel being lowered and a hatch opening. Soon, a shadow appeared within, and then others beside him. Jonathan signaled quickly for more lights to be turned upon the ship. In a moment, sharp arc-lights sputtered into life and the doorway of the ship was brighter than the sun.

There were three of them. Definitely humanoid in shape. Two arms, legs and a head with very human features. The two groups of men walked toward each other. Jonathan inspected the visitors carefully. "Yes," he thought, "if they wore different

CONTINUED...

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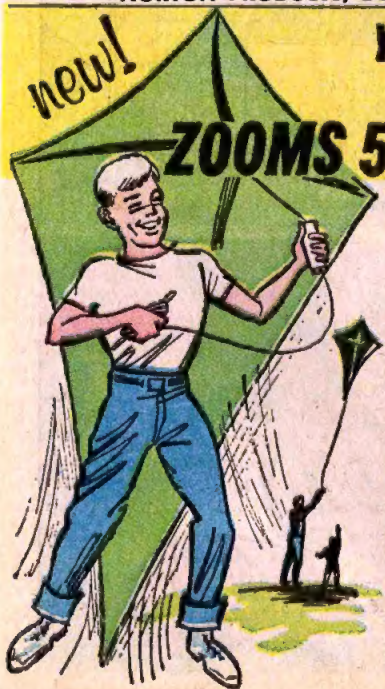
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Name _____

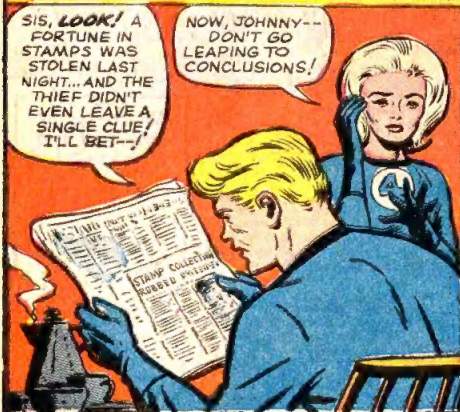
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10 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

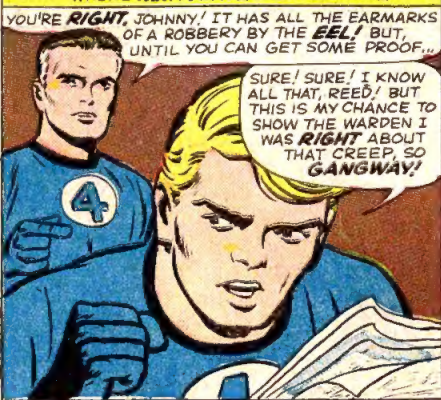
AND, THE EEL'S PREDICTION PROVES TO BE CORRECT! FOR, AS JOHNNY SCANS THE PAPER THE NEXT MORNING...



SIS, LOOK! A FORTUNE IN STAMPS WAS STOLEN LAST NIGHT... AND THE THIEF DIDN'T EVEN LEAVE A SINGLE CLUE! I'LL BET--!

NOW, JOHNNY-- DON'T GO LEAPING TO CONCLUSIONS!

BUT THE EAGER TEEN-AGER CANNOT RESTRAIN HIS EXCITEMENT AS HE RACES TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, WHERE **MR. FANTASTIC** TELLS HIM...



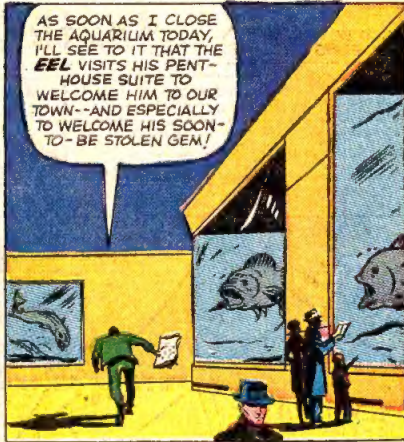
YOU'RE **RIGHT**, JOHNNY! IT HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF A ROBBERY BY THE **EEL**! BUT, UNTIL YOU CAN GET SOME PROOF...

SURE! SURE! I KNOW ALL THAT, REED! BUT THIS IS MY CHANCE TO SHOW THE WARDEN I WAS **RIGHT** ABOUT THAT CREEP, SO **GANGWAY!**

BUT, ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES **ALSO** PERUSE THE PAPER EACH MORNING, SEARCHING FOR INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL ITEMS! AND, THE NEXT DAY, WE FIND LEOPOLD STRYKE AT THE AQUARIUM...



AHHH! PRINCE SINGH RAM OF TURKISTAN IS IN NEW YORK WITH THE FABLED RAM RUBY, THE LARGEST AND MOST VALUABLE IN THE WORLD!



AS SOON AS I CLOSE THE AQUARIUM TODAY, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THE **EEL** VISITS HIS PENTHOUSE SUITE TO WELCOME HIM TO OUR TOWN--AND ESPECIALLY TO WELCOME HIS SOON-TO-BE STOLEN GEM!

THAT NIGHT, THE LOCK INSIDE A PENTHOUSE WINDOW IS EXPERTLY UNLATCHED AS THE LITHE, MASKED FORM OF THE **EEL** SLINKS INTO THE EXPENSIVE RICHLY-FURNISHED HOTEL SUITE OF PRINCE SINGH RAM...

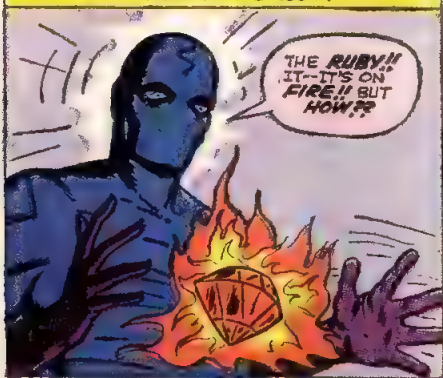


THE CARELESS FOOL! HE HAS THE RUBY ON A NIGHT TABLE BESIDE HIM! BUT, NOT FOR **LONG!**



THIS WILL BECOME FAMOUS AS THE GREATEST THEFT OF THE CENTURY! AND NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT THE **EEL** WAS RESPONSIBLE!

BUT SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE GIANT RUBY BURSTS INTO FLAME, AS IT SEEMS TO BE STRUCK BY A TINY, BLAZING PELLET WHICH STRIKES IT FROM ACROSS THE ROOM!



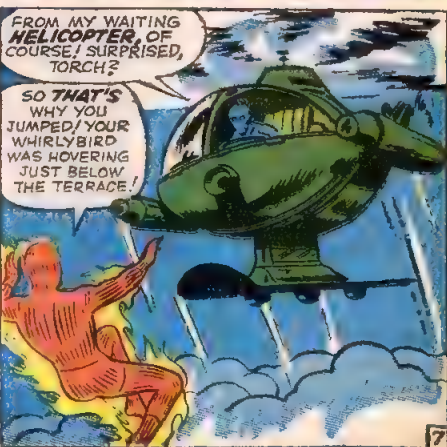
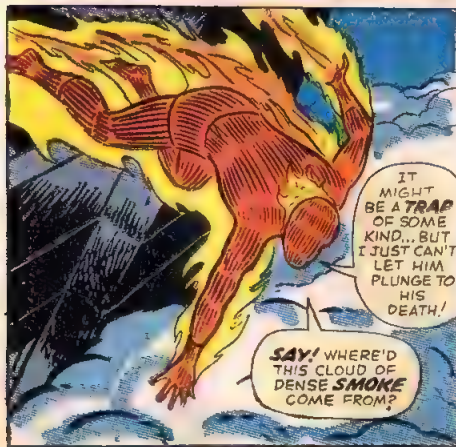
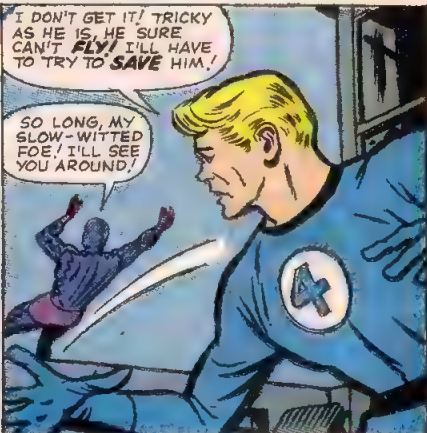
YOU TOOK ME BY SURPRISE BECAUSE I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TRY TO BATTLE ME-- CONSIDERING THAT I'M SO MUCH YOUR SUPERIOR--AS I SHALL NOW DEMONSTRATE!

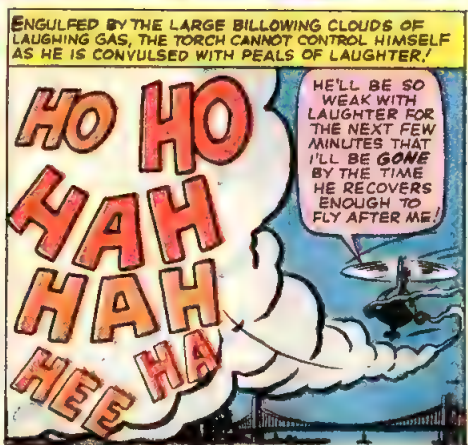
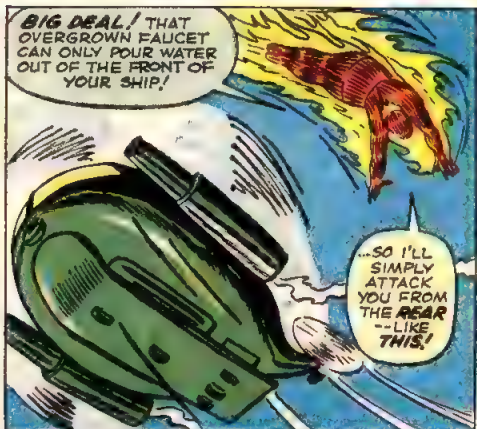
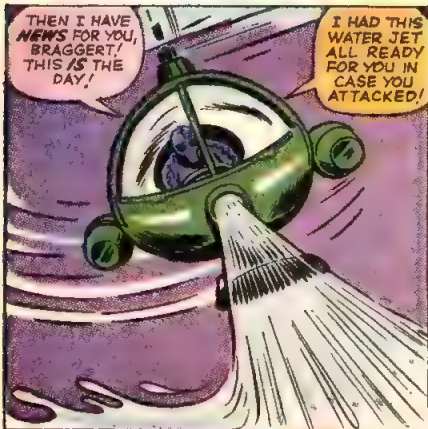
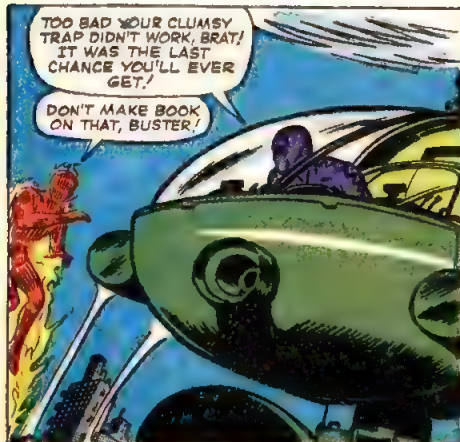
EEL--WAIT! YOU FOOL-- YOU'RE ON THE PENT-HOUSE FLOOR! IT'S THIRTY STORIES TO THE GROUND!

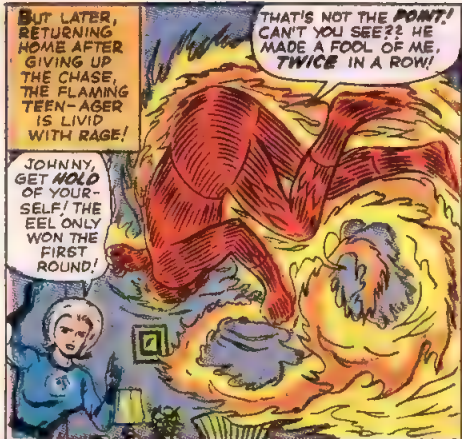


I DON'T GET IT! TRICKY AS HE IS, HE SURE CAN'T FLY! I'LL HAVE TO TRY TO SAVE HIM!

SO LONG, MY SLOW-WITTED FOE! I'LL SEE YOU AROUND!







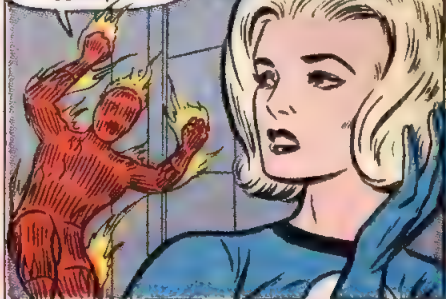
BUT LATER, RETURNING HOME AFTER GIVING UP THE CHASE, THE FLAMING TEEN-AGER IS LIVID WITH RAGE!

JOHNNY, GET HOLD OF YOURSELF! THE EEL ONLY WON THE FIRST ROUND!

THAT'S NOT THE POINT! CAN'T YOU SEE?? HE MADE A FOOL OF ME, TWICE IN A ROW!

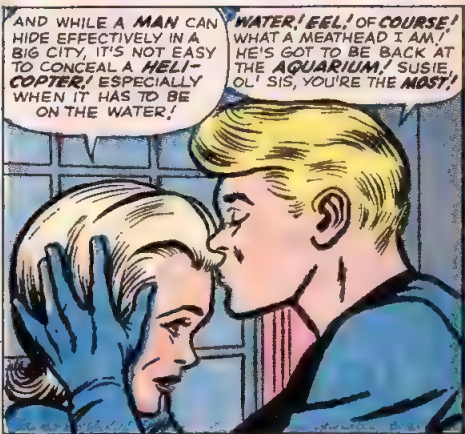
CAN YOU IMAGINE IF THE THING EVER HEARS OF THIS?? BASHFUL BENJAMIN WON'T EVER STOP RIDIN' ME! AND THE KIDS AT SCHOOL-- I'LL BE ASHAMED TO SHOW MY FACE IN CLASS!

WELL, STANDING THERE AND SMOKING UP THE LIVING ROOM ISN'T DOING YOU THE LEAST BIT OF GOOD, JOHNNY! WHY DON'T YOU GO AFTER HIM AGAIN?



WOMEN!! THEY'RE ALL NUTS!! DO YOU THINK HE LEFT HIS ADDRESS WITH ME?? HOW DO I KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM?? HE WON'T BE IN THE PHONE BOOK!!

DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT HIS HELICOPTER HAD PONTOOONS?? THAT WOULD INDICATE IT'S WATER-BASED, WOULDN'T IT?



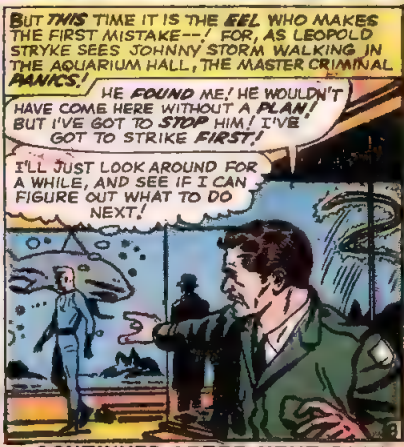
AND WHILE A MAN CAN HIDE EFFECTIVELY IN A BIG CITY, IT'S NOT EASY TO CONCEAL A HELICOPTER! ESPECIALLY WHEN IT HAS TO BE ON THE WATER!

WATER! EEL! OF COURSE! WHAT A MEATHEAD I AM! HE'S GOT TO BE BACK AT THE AQUARIUM! SUSIE, OL' SIS, YOU'RE THE MOST!



AND SO... THAT LIGHTHOUSE JUST OFF SHORE-- A PERFECT PLACE TO DOCK HIS HELICOPTER! SUE WAS RIGHT!

BUT I MUSTN'T DO ANYTHING RASH AGAIN! I STILL HAVEN'T ANY PROOF! HOW DO I WRING A CONFESSION OUT OF HIM?



BUT THIS TIME IT IS THE EEL WHO MAKES THE FIRST MISTAKE--! FOR, AS LEOPOLD STRYKE SEES JOHNNY STORM WALKING IN THE AQUARIUM HALL, THE MASTER CRIMINAL PANICS!

HE FOUND ME! HE WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE WITHOUT A PLAN! BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM! I'VE GOT TO STRIKE FIRST!

I'LL JUST LOOK AROUND FOR A WHILE, AND SEE IF I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE.

ANOTHER MARVEL MASTERPIECE



NOW
ON
SALE!

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THROW YOUR VOICE



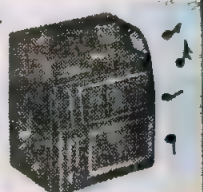
Throw your voice into fun and behind doors, everywhere in instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. Fool teacher, friends and family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriquist". No. 2137 25¢



SILENT HORN WHISTLE
This whistle can't be heard by human ears but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds. No. 3791 \$1.00

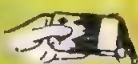
MUSICAL JUKE BOX BANK

Drop in a coin and the turntable revolves to a lively melody... just like the modern juke box that youngsters adore. Makes saving a pleasure—money mounts up. Made of sturdy metal. 4 1/2" x 4". No. 2005 \$1.50



MAGIC CARDS

Deck is marked and striped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks. Put on a card magic show that will astonish any party. No. 2183 \$1.30



SEE BEHIND GLASSES

A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing your watching. Really comes in handy at times. \$0.30 75¢



YOU, TOO, CAN BE TOUGH
Master Jui Jitsu and you'll win any fight. This book gives all the grips, blocks, etc. which are so effective in counterattack. FREE book on how to perform stronger than man stunts also included. NO. 224 1.00



SURPRISE FACEBOOK
Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth. Only 50¢ No. 678



AMAZING MINIATURE RADIO

This tiny feather-weight radio operates without batteries without tubes but brings you years of listening pleasure. Nothing to wear out nothing to replace. No. 3644 \$4.90

TREASURE CHEST OF FUN



BIKE WINDSHIELD

Turn your bike into something really special with this clear, transparent bike windshield. Just like the ones on Motorcycles. Handy built-in pouch enables you to keep your sunglasses, tools, and personal effects within easy reach. Really makes your bike different. No. 4264 \$1.00



TRANSISTOR RADIO KIT

This amazing radio kit contains all the components to construct a powerful, highly efficient instrument. It operates 1,000 hours on 2 junior non light batteries and is simple to construct. Full instructions and all parts are included for you to build your own private transistor radio. No. 2181 \$5.90

KRAZY KRAY

Apply this to the television screen and it appears that the glass is cracked. No. 3333 .60¢



BANK VAULT WITH ALARM

Bank vault has combination type lock that gives an alarm when opened. Protect valuables and possessions. Frighten off would be invaders of your privacy. Excellent for storing money, valuables, prizes. No. 2113 \$1.40



BIKE SPEEDOMETER

Now you can see how fast you're riding with this precision engineered speedometer for only 75¢. You can time yourself for racing, sports, distance. Just fasten it to your handlebar and go. No. 6189 75¢



INSECT COLLECTING KIT

Complete equipment for making perfect safe insect specimens. SET includes efficient net for catching insects, killing jar, forceps, magnifying glass, mounting pins, preserving strips, identification labels, etc. Full instructions are included. No. 2117 1.00



MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Free-size camera on handle. Fits in cigarette pack. No. 211, includes 24 pictures per roll. 100 ft. film. 35mm lens and lens aperture shutter. No. 750 1.25



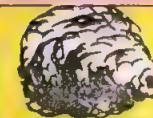
EXPLODING HAND GRENADE

This amazing hand grenade looks and works just like a real one. All you do is pull the pin, throw the grenade, and watch the fun as the caps explode. It's harmless. No. 2109 75¢



AMAZING NEW SPACE PHONE SET — 2 WAY — SENDS... RECEIVES

You can talk back and forth between houses, from room to room and from secret hiding places. Because it's portable, no electric wires, no batteries. No. 3194 98¢



ATOMIC SMOKE BOMB

Just light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling, mushrooming into a dense cloud just like an A Bomb. No. 973 30¢

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Return me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days Free Trial for full refund of purchase price.

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Name

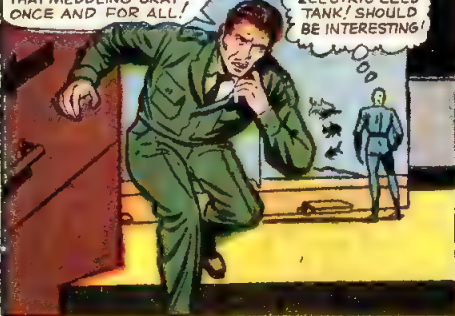
Address

☐ I enclose 10¢ additional. Please send me your 40 page catalog of over 500 Top Tricks and Novelties.

NERVOUS AND WORRIED, THE AQUARIUM CARETAKER BOLTS FOR HIS PRIVATE ROOM AT THE REAR OF THE BUILDING, DETERMINED TO STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW IN HIS FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH THE TORCH!

I'LL CHANGE TO THE **EEL** AND THEN GET RID OF THAT MEDDLING BRAT ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THINK I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THE **ELECTRIC EELS' TANK!** SHOULD BE INTERESTING!



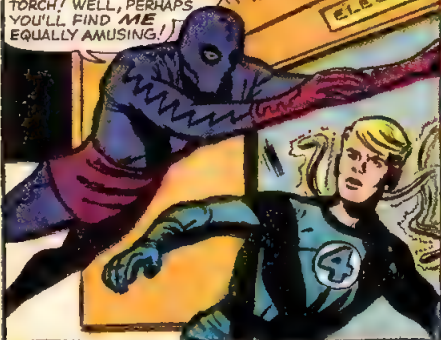
FINDING THE EEL EXHIBIT, JOHNNY STORM STARES AT THE STRANGE CREATURES WITH GREAT INTEREST! IN FACT, SO ABSORBED IS HE IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS, THAT HE DOESN'T REALIZE THE AQUARIUM HAS BEEN CLOSED AND THE DOORS BOLTED! HE IS THE ONLY VISITOR REMAINING!

FASCINATING LITTLE THINGS! AND A LOT MORE DANGEROUS THAN THEY **LOOK!** JUST LIKE THE **EEL** HIMSELF!



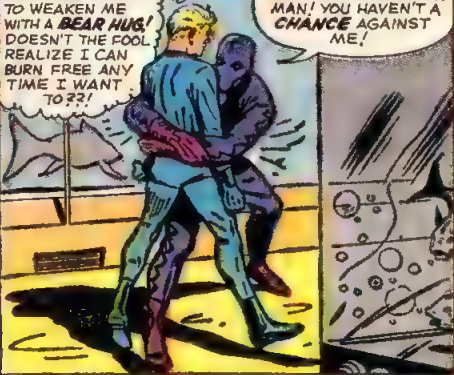
AND THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, THE MYSTERIOUS MENACE STRIKES!

SO, MY LITTLE FRIENDS AMUSE YOU, EH, TORCH? WELL, PERHAPS YOU'LL FIND **ME** EQUALLY AMUSING!



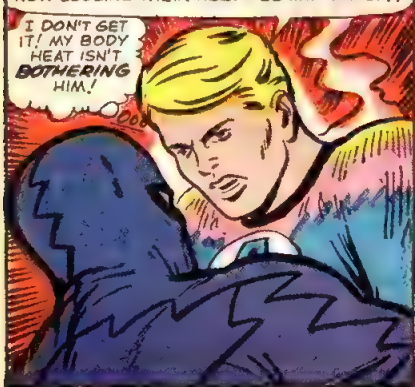
HE KNOWS HE'S STRONGER THAN ME--HE'S TRYING TO WEAKEN ME WITH A **BEAR HUG!** DOESN'T THE FOOL REALIZE I CAN BURN FREE ANY TIME I WANT TO??!

YOU'RE STRONG FOR A TEEN-AGER, TORCH-- BUT I'M A FULL GROWN MAN! YOU HAVEN'T A **CHANCE** AGAINST ME!



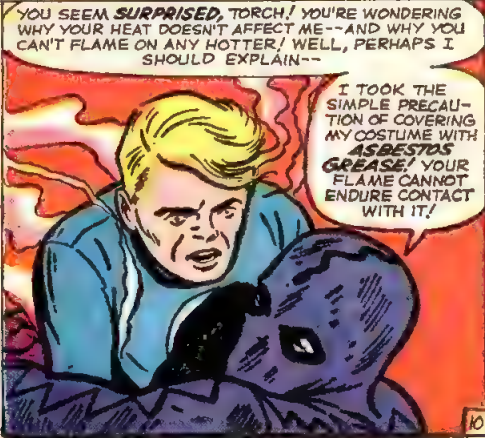
DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW MANY JOES WHO USED TO TELL ME THAT SAME THING ARE NOW COOLING THEIR HEELS BEHIND BARS??!

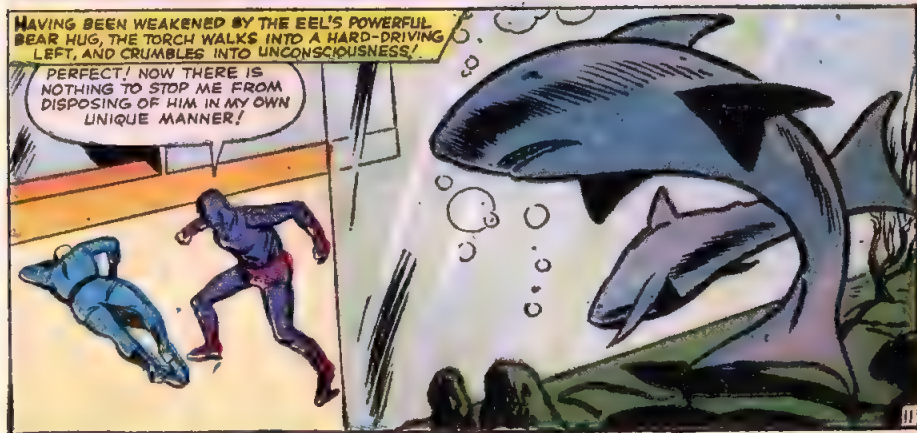
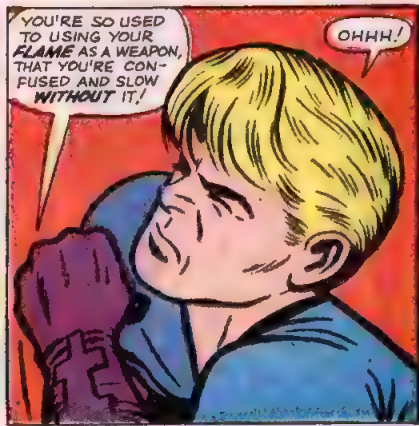
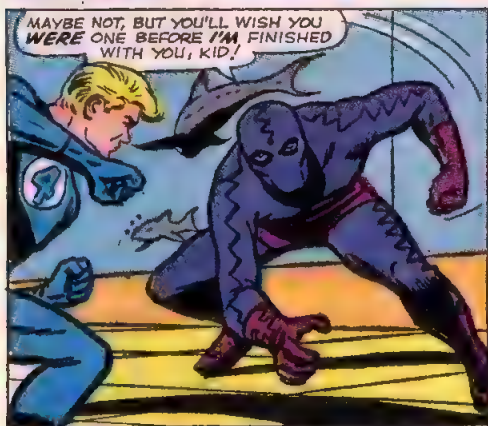
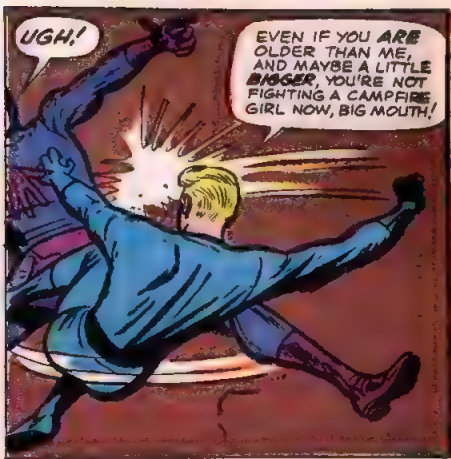
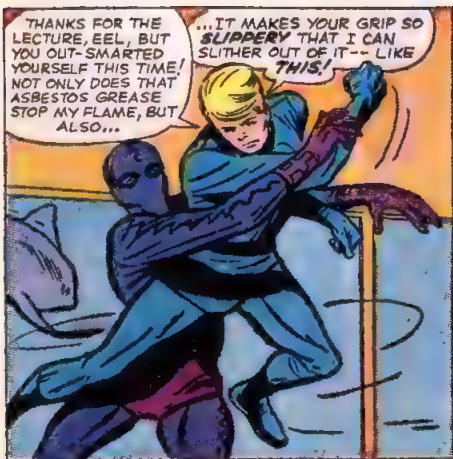
I DON'T GET IT! MY BODY HEAT ISN'T **BOthering** HIM!

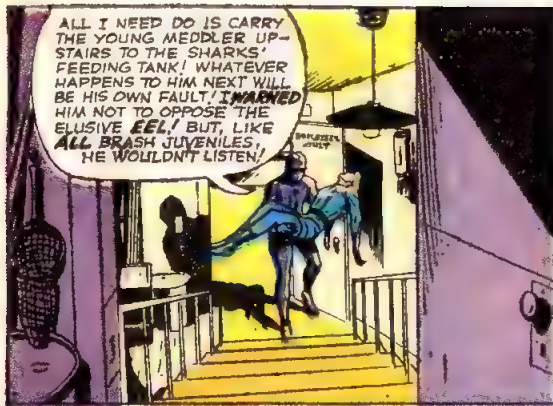


YOU SEEM **SURPRISED**, TORCH! YOU'RE WONDERING WHY YOUR HEAT DOESN'T AFFECT ME--AND WHY YOU CAN'T FLAME ON ANY HOTTER! WELL, PERHAPS I SHOULD EXPLAIN--

I TOOK THE SIMPLE PRECAUTION OF COVERING MY COSTUME WITH **ASBESTOS GREASE!** YOUR FLAME CANNOT ENDURE CONTACT WITH IT!







ALL I NEED DO IS CARRY THE YOUNG MEDDLER UP-STAIRS TO THE SHARKS' FEEDING TANK! WHATEVER HAPPENS TO HIM NEXT WILL BE HIS OWN FAULT! I WARNED HIM NOT TO OPPOSE THE ELUSIVE EEL! BUT, LIKE ALL BRASH JUVENILES, HE WOULDN'T LISTEN!

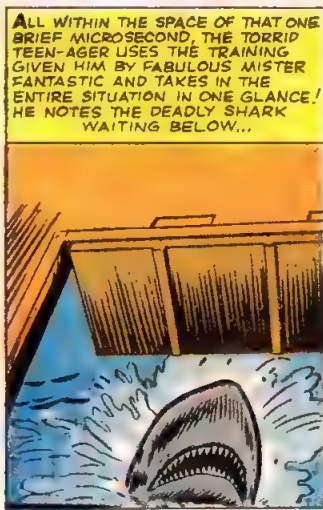


THERE! AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, I CAN OPEN THE TRAP DOOR LEADING TO THE SHARK TANK!



BUT, AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, JOHNNY RECOVERS CONSCIOUSNESS, AND, SLOWLY OPENING ONE EYE, HE SEES...

I'M BEING HELD OVER AN OPEN TRAP DOOR!



ALL WITHIN THE SPACE OF THAT ONE BRIEF MICROSECOND, THE TORRID TEEN-AGER USES THE TRAINING GIVEN HIM BY FABULOUS MAISTER FANTASTIC AND TAKES IN THE ENTIRE SITUATION IN ONE GLANCE! HE NOTES THE DEADLY SHARK WAITING BELOW...



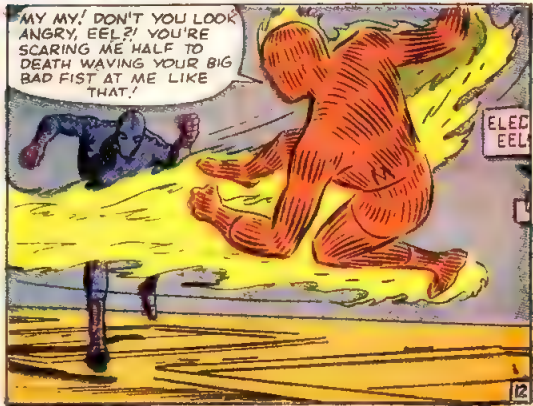
...AND THE SEALED DRUM STANDING NEARBY - THE DRUM CONTAINING THE EEL'S SUPPLY OF AMAZING ASBESTOS GREASE! AND THEN, IN THE SPACE OF ONE HEARTBEAT...



...THE HUMAN TORCH BLAZES INTO ACTION!!!

YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THAT YOUR FIREPROOF GREASE HAS ALL RUBBED AWAY! AND NOW--

FLAME ON!



MY MY! DON'T YOU LOOK ANGRY, EEL? YOU'RE SCARING ME HALF TO DEATH WAVING YOUR BIG BAD FIST AT ME LIKE THAT!

EEL TOR GREASE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...



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Illustrated: 1804 silver dollar — 19,000 minted, only 12 accounted for — where are the rest?

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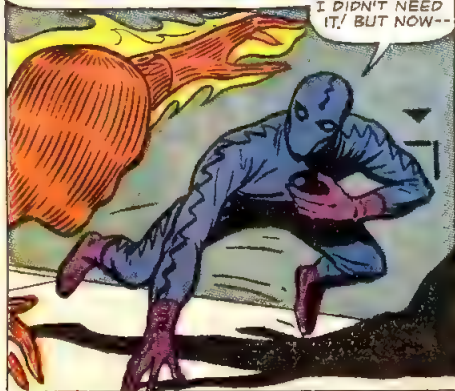
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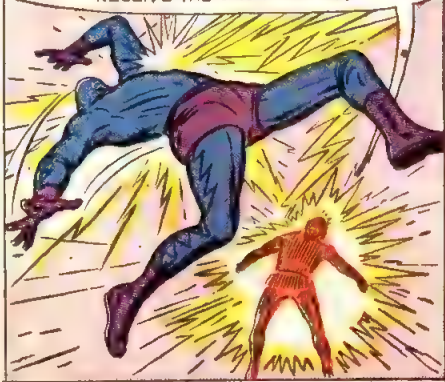
**YOUR MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED IN FULL
IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS CATALOG**

YOU HAVE MORE THAN MY **FISTS** TO FEAR NOW, TORCH! I DIDN'T BOTHER USING MY **ELECTRO-STUNNER** ON YOU BEFORE, BECAUSE I THOUGHT

I DIDN'T NEED IT! BUT NOW--

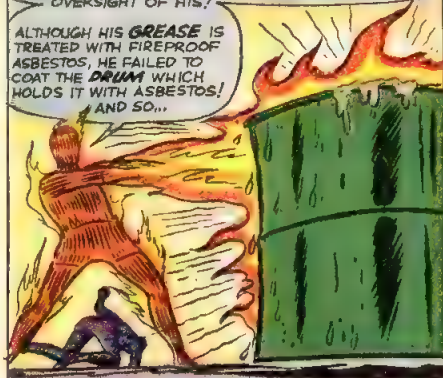


DIDN'T IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT MY FLAME, BURNING AT HIGH INTENSITY, WOULD CAUSE YOUR ELECTRIC BLAST TO BACKFIRE, SO THAT **YOU'D** RECEIVE THE BRUNT OF IT??!

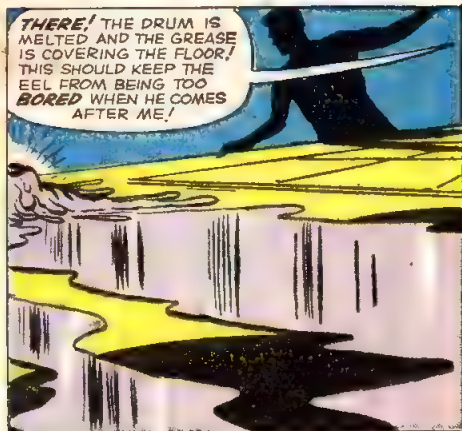


AND NOW, WHILE MY WALTZING PARTNER IS "RESTING," I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF **ANOTHER** OVERSIGHT OF HIS!

ALTHOUGH HIS **GREASE** IS TREATED WITH FIREPROOF ASBESTOS, HE FAILED TO COAT THE **DRUM** WHICH HOLDS IT WITH ASBESTOS! AND SO...



THERE! THE DRUM IS MELTED AND THE GREASE IS COVERING THE FLOOR! THIS SHOULD KEEP THE EEL FROM BEING TOO **BORED** WHEN HE COMES AFTER ME!



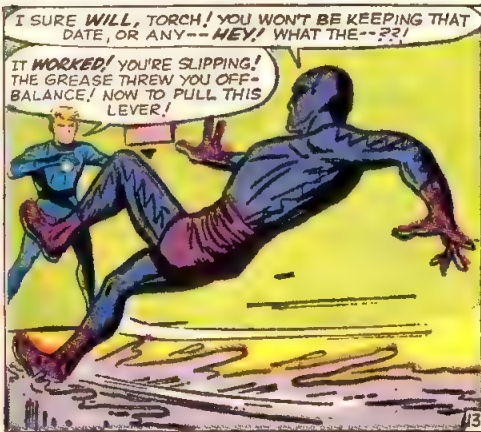
OKAY, EEL! LET'S WRAP THIS THING UP NOW!

I'VE GOT A HEAVY DATE TONIGHT AND DON'T WANNA BE LATE ON ACCOUNT OF **YOU!** SO, IF YOU WANT ME, COME AND GET ME!



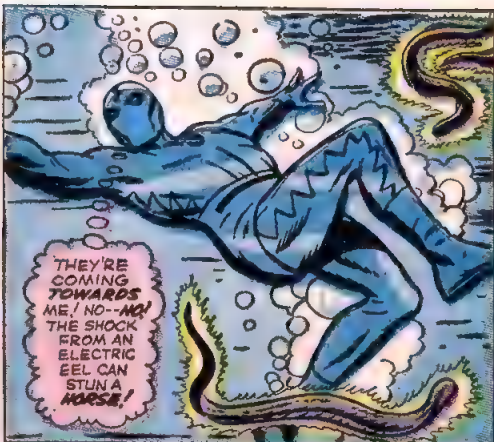
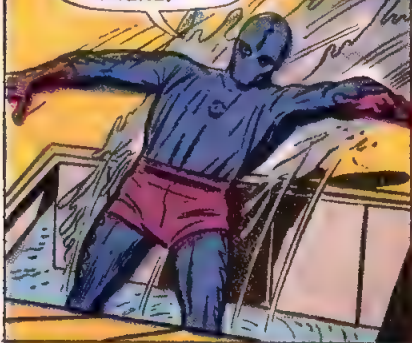
I SURE **WILL**, TORCH! YOU WON'T BE KEEPING THAT DATE, OR ANY-- **HEY!** WHAT THE--??!

IT **WORKED!** YOU'RE SLIPPING! THE GREASE THREW YOU OFF-BALANCE! NOW TO PULL THIS LEVER!



"I FIGURED IT JUST **RIGHT!** HAVE A NICE TRIP, GOOD BUDDY!"

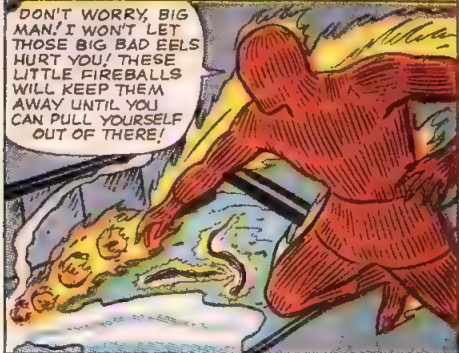
NO, **DON'T!** DON'T LET ME FALL DOWN **THERE!**



THEY'RE COMING **TOWARDS** ME! NO--NO! THE SHOCK FROM AN **ELECTRIC EEL** CAN STUN A **HORSE!**

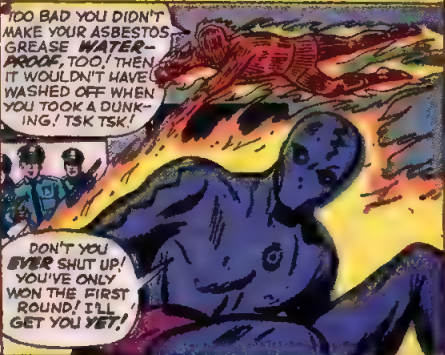
THEN, SEEING THAT HIS OPPONENT'S SPIRIT IS BROKEN, AND HIS WILL TO FIGHT IS GONE, THE TORCH FLAMES ON AGAIN AND HURLS A BARRAGE OF FIREBALLS INTO THE EEL TANK...

DON'T WORRY, BIG MAN! I WON'T LET THOSE BIG BAD EELS HURT YOU! THESE LITTLE FIREBALLS WILL KEEP THEM AWAY UNTIL YOU CAN PULL YOURSELF OUT OF THERE!



AFTER CASUALLY PHONING THE POLICE, THE TORCH ENCIRCLES THE DEFEATED EEL IN A WALL OF FLAME, AMUSING HIMSELF WITH LIGHT BANTER UNTIL THE OFFICERS ARRIVE...

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T MAKE YOUR ASBESTOS GREASE **WATER-PROOF**, TOO! THEN IT WOULDN'T HAVE WASHED OFF WHEN YOU TOOK A DUNKING! TSK TSK!



DON'T YOU **EVER** SHUT UP! YOU'VE ONLY WON THE FIRST ROUND! I'LL GET YOU YET!

BUT, ONCE THE POLICE HAUL THE NOW-DEFEATED MASTER CRIMINAL AWAY, THE TORCH WASTES NO TIME WORRYING ABOUT HIS THREAT! INSTEAD, THE NEXT EVENING FINDS HIM...

I READ THIS ISSUE A DOZEN TIMES ALREADY, BUT **ANYTHING'S** BETTER THAN LOOKING AT, OR EVEN **THINKING** ABOUT ANY **MORE FISH!**



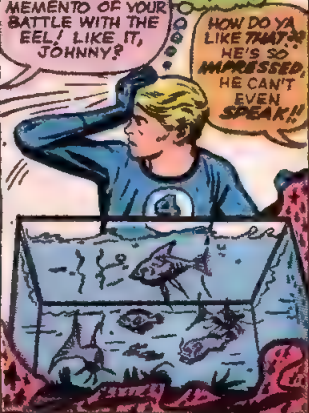
HI, LITTLE BROTHER! ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING, I DID A LITTLE SHOPPING, AND I BOUGHT YOU A PRESENT! BEN AND REED HELPED ME CARRY IT!



JUST A LITTLE MEMENTO OF YOUR BATTLE WITH THE EEL! LIKE IT, JOHNNY?

OH, NO!!

HOW DO YA LIKE THAT? HE'S SO IMPRESSED, HE CAN'T EVEN SPEAK!!



THE END

DOCTOR STRANGE

FACES

THE MANY TRAPS OF BARON MORDO!

WRITTEN BY
STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY
STEVE DITKO
LETTERED BY
S. ROSEN

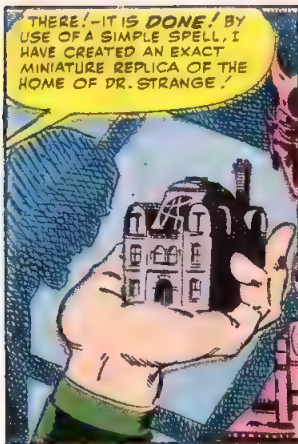


FAST BECOMING ONE OF THE MARVEL
COMICS GROUP'S FAVORITE FEATURES,
DOCTOR STRANGE

TAKES YOU BEHIND THE SCENES OF
THE WORLD OF ENCHANTMENT AND
BLACK MAGIC, AS HE FACES ONE OF
THE MOST FEARFUL VILLAINS OF
ALL TIME!

A TALE OF STRANGE
MYSTERY, TOLD IN THE
MAGICAL MARVEL
MANNER!

THERE!—IT IS **DONE!** BY USE OF A SIMPLE SPELL, I HAVE CREATED AN EXACT MINIATURE REPLICA OF THE HOME OF DR. STRANGE!



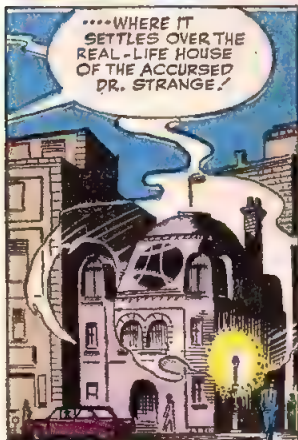
AND NOW, WHEN I **REPEAT** THE SPELL, SAYING IT SLOWLY... A MAGICAL MIST COVERS MY PRECIOUS MODEL!



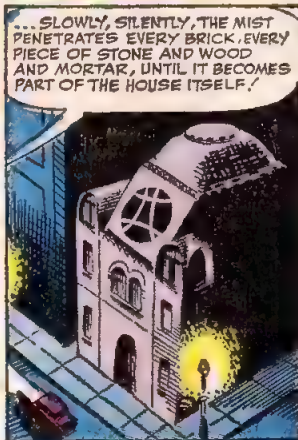
THEN, AT THE NEXT COMMAND OF **BARON MORDO**, MY ENCHANTED MIST DRIFTS OUT OF MY WINDOW... AND INTO THE SKY!



....WHERE IT SETTLES OVER THE REAL-LIFE HOUSE OF THE ACCURSED DR. STRANGE!



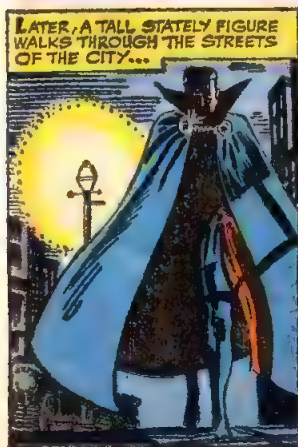
... SLOWLY, SILENTLY, THE MIST PENETRATES EVERY BRICK, EVERY PIECE OF STONE AND WOOD AND MORTAR, UNTIL IT BECOMES PART OF THE HOUSE ITSELF!



AND SO IT IS **DONE!** MY TRAP IS SET! THE HOME OF DR. STRANGE IS UNDER MY SPELL... THE SPELL OF **BARON MORDO!**



LATER, A TALL STATELY FIGURE WALKS THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY...



IT IS THE IMPOSING FIGURE OF **DR. STRANGE**, MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC!! LOST IN THOUGHT, THE SILENT MAN HAS NO SUSPICION OF WHAT AWAITS HIM!



... WHILE HIS ARCH-ENEMY WATCHES HIS EVERY MOVE WITH SINISTER GLEE...



HE IS ENTERING HIS HOUSE! HE HAS DOOMED HIMSELF! I'VE **BEATEN HIM!**

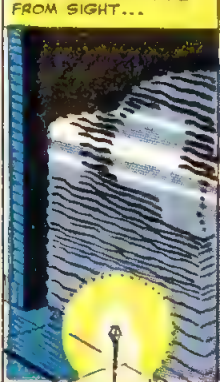
THEN, AS THE DOOR
CREAKS SHUT BEHIND
DR. STRANGE...



...AND THE LIGHTS GO
ON WITHIN THE
SHROUDED BUILDING...



...THE ENTIRE BUILDING
BEGINS TO SHUDDER...
TO WAVER...TO FADE
FROM SIGHT...



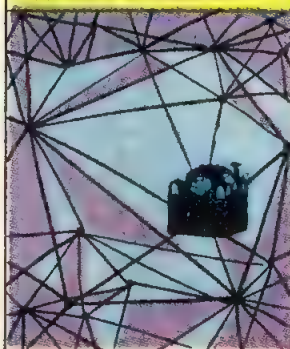
...UNTIL, SECONDS LATER,
THE HOME OF DR. STRANGE,
AND ALL IT CONTAINS,
ARE GONE...VANISHED,
AS THOUGH FROM THE
FACE OF THE EARTH!



HOW EASY IT WAS! HE
SUSPECTED NOTHING...
AND NOW, HE CAN NEVER
ESCAPE ME AGAIN!



MEANTIME, THE ENCHANTED
HOUSE REAPPEARS AGAIN...
BUT **THIS** TIME IT IS ALONE...
IN THE SHIMMERING VASTNESS
OF AN UNKNOWN DIMENSION!



AND WITHIN THE
BUILDING'S WALLS...

A POWERFUL SPELL
IS AT WORK HERE! I HAVE
BEEN TRANSPORTED TO A
STRANGE DIMENSION, WHERE
I FIND MYSELF WEIGHTLESS
AND HELPLESS!



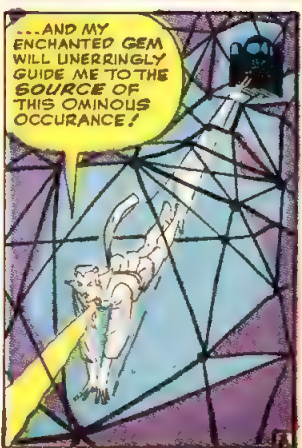
NO! NOT QUITE HELPLESS!
FOR I STILL HAVE THE POWER
OF MY MAGIC AMULET
TO AID ME!



THE SPELL I AM UNDER IS
TOO STRONG TO BE BROKEN
BY MY PHYSICAL SELF! BUT,
I STILL HAVE A CHANCE! BY
THE POWER OF MY AMULET,
I SHALL CHANGE TO MY
ETHEREAL SELF!



...AND MY
ENCHANTED GEM
WILL UNERRINGLY
GUIDE ME TO THE
SOURCE OF
THIS OMINOUS
OCCURANCE!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE..



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6. Love Came To Me
7. Go Away, Little Girl
8. Quarter To Three
9. Those Oldies But Goodies
10. Every Beat Of My Heart
11. Tootsie' And Turnt
12. Toughest
13. Copid
14. Come Into My Heart
15. We Got Love
16. Heartaches By The Number
17. In The Mood
18. So Many Ways
19. Unforgettable
20. Beyond The Sea
21. Where Or When
22. Let It Be Me
23. What Is The World's Come Over You
24. Baby You Got What It Takes
25. Baby Workout
26. I Will Follow Him
27. Mr. Bass Man
28. Putt
29. Young Love
30. Don't Be Afraid, Little Darlin'
31. Black You
32. Who Put The Bomb
33. Take Good Care Of My Baby
34. The Mountain's High
35. My True Story
36. Without You
37. Harbor Lights
38. Wind Tree
39. Pumpy Love
40. Nema
41. O Do Mio
42. I Love The Way You Love
43. Tall Oak Tree
44. Spinning Bridge
45. When You Walk Upon A Star
46. The Madison
47. A Little Bit Of You
48. I Know
49. Norman
50. The Paperman
51. Twist
52. Dear Jean
53. Good Timin'
54. Cradle Of Love
55. Let The Little Girl Dance
56. You Can Depend On Me
57. Daddy's Home
58. The Wanderer
59. Mama Said
60. Bambi's Scared
61. Volare
62. All My Love
63. Dreamin'
64. Kiddle
65. To Ya
66. Yogi
67. You Talk Too Much
68. Georgia On My Mind
69. Blue Angel
70. Star
71. Artificial Flowers
72. Poetry In Motion
73. It Might As Well Rain Until September
74. You're In Blue Jeans
75. Your Knees Is Gonna Grow
76. Rally Gully Bait
77. Fatigue
78. When My Little Girl Is Smiling
79. Good Luck Charm
80. Blue Twinkle
81. Johnny Angel
82. Sherry
83. Dear One
84. Glimpse Comes Late
85. Emotions
86. Wheels
87. Baby Little's Secret
88. Where The Boys Are
89. Good Time Baby
90. Four Time
91. I Don't Want To Cry
92. Please Love Me Forever
93. Aria Minor
94. Once Upon A Time
95. Blue Moon
96. Your One And Only Love

1. FLY ME TO THE MOON (Bossa Nova Tempo)
2. LIMBO ROCK
3. SLOW TWISTIN'
4. HULLY GULLY BAIT
5. THE MADISON
6. MASHED POTATO TIME

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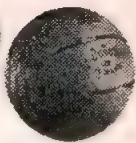
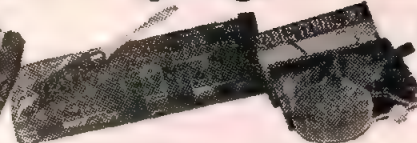
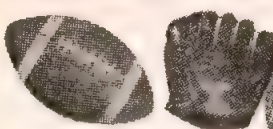
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Last Name
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clothes they could easily pass for us . . . except possibly for that broad upper lip. It seems to have a different construction than ours."

The men communicated with each other by sign language. They talked to each other too, but there was little hope of actual words being understood; however the tone of voice carried a great deal of meaning to both sides. The visitors' voices were calm, unhurried and fairly guttural. Not cold, but very confident. The strangers examined the earth-space ship with great interest. Each new article or control panel they found seemed to give no surprise, and not even the latest advances of our scientists could provoke any curiosity.

Then Jonathan and his Commission were escorted through the aliens' ship and they, on the contrary, were astounded. They pointed to maps on the wall, and Jonathan was made to understand that these 'people' were from the farthest galaxy Earth knew. And yet they explained through drawings that they had made the trip in less than seven revolutions of our earth. "Less than a week," Jonathan murmured to his colleague standing near. "What can we offer them on earth that would be of value to them?"

"And what," his colleague retorted, "would prevent them from conquering earth with little or no trouble?"

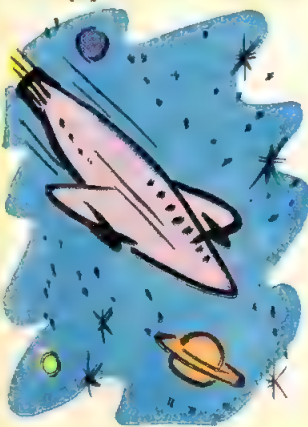
"Nothing!" Jonathan was forced to reply.

Then the Earth Peace Commission was shown other things. Spectroscopes of Earth compared to their planet showed that they had more minerals in great abundance than we had. A pictorial "history" of the native planet of the visitors showed the Earthmen clearly that they were on a path of conquest throughout the galaxies. They had annexed 12 planets in

little more than three years. By signs, Jonathan asked what happened to the populations of the planets they had taken? The alien merely made what Jonathan thought must be a smile with his strange upper lip, and made the gesture of handcuffs being clamped onto his wrists.

"Slaves!" thought Jonathan grimly.

The presumed conquerors also knew the position of earth in this situation. They were letting none of their advantage escape them. They made a sign to Jonathan, then made a drawing on a piece of what might have been paper. It was clear what



they meant. If, within one week, the earth people weren't able to show them any reason why they should be spared, a fleet of conquerors would be here to take over earth for another conquest.

Jonathan's eyes tried to pierce the cold mask of the intruders. Unconsciously his mouth puckered up and his breath escaped through it quickly into a high, shrill whistle.

"Whew-w-w!"

For the first time, the visitors exchanged looks of surprise. Then they looked back at Jonathan. He guessed at their wonder and just to let them know it was no accident, he did it again.

"Whew-w-w! . . . and he whis-

tled a few tunes too. He then made a quick message to the first mate of their spaceship to go back and find anything that was possible to make music with. Within a few moments, while the Commission was whistling everything they could to the once-hostile strangers, the crew returned bringing back an empty oil can, a harmonica and an accordion. Soon the space platform sounded like a dance hall instead of the somber site for a peace conference.

The sounds of music, strange to the visitors' ears provided an excellent excuse for Jonathan to invite them to visit Earth itself, and listen to some real music. Within a week, the aliens had been enchanted and won with Beethoven, Wagner, Brahms and Debussy.

Jonathan told his Earth Peace Commission at their final meeting, "I might say with confidence that the earth is saved. Not only for the moment, but as long as there are composers who can bring new sounds to our visitors and keep them interested. It has been well established that they cannot make musical sounds themselves, therefore, they must depend upon us for this now indispensable part of their culture . . . music! Our work is done . . . now it's all up to the composers and musicians."

As he left the meeting room, Jonathan looked up into the sky and he saw the spaceship streaming across the horizon on its return voyage to its home planet, loaded with musical instruments and recordings. As its glow faded, Jonathan found himself singing a popular song with more feeling than he ever had before. His voice floated up toward the stars echoing the last words . . . "and it's all over now!"

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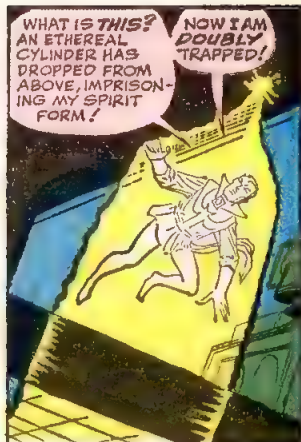
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THERE **MUST** BE A WAY... THERE **MUST!**

MEANWHILE, HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, MORDO FACES THE GREAT DOORS WHICH LEAD TO THE ANCIENT ONE'S RETREAT!

DISTANCES ARE MEANINGLESS TO A DISCIPLE OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! AT LAST I HAVE REACHED MY GOAL!

OH, ANCIENT ONE, YOUR REPENTFUL STUDENT HAS RETURNED...TO BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS!

I HAVE LEARNED THE FOLLY OF EVIL! I HAVE COME TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MY PAST DEEDS!

NONE WHO DESIRE TO REPENT SHALL BE RETURNED AWAY! ENTER, MORDO!

THE TRUSTING OLD FOOL BELIEVED ME, AS I **KNEW** HE WOULD! NOW THAT I AM INSIDE, THE REST SHALL BE **EASY!**

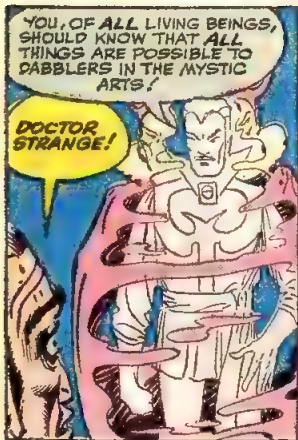
OH, MASTER...I HAVE BEEN WICKED! I BEG YOU TO TEACH ME TO BE GOOD...TO BE NOBLE...LIKE DR. STRANGE!

YOU MAY APPROACH ME, MORDO!

I KNOW I DO NOT EVEN **DESERVE** YOUR FORGIVENESS, AND YET...

THE CLOSER I GET TO HIM, THE EASIER IT WILL BE!

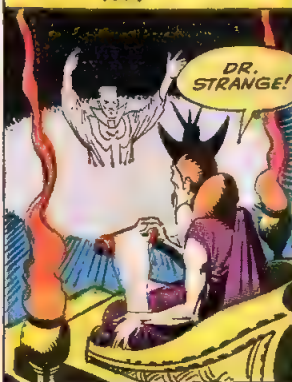
...TEACH ME TO USE MY MAGIC POWERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND! TEACH ME, OH HONORED ANCIENT ONE!



"YOU NEVER EXPECTED THAT I WOULD DO SUCH A THING, AND THE FURTHER DOWN I WENT, THE WEAKER YOUR SPELL BECAME... UNTIL AT LAST I EMERGED AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE, FREE OF YOUR ETHEREAL TRAP!"



"AND THUS I WAS ABLE TO REACH THE ANCIENT ONE BEFORE YOU!"



"WITHIN SECONDS I HAD EXPLAINED HIS DANGER..."

I CAME TO WARN YOU, MASTER! IN MY ETHEREAL FORM, I CANNOT BATTLE MORDO, AND YET... SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!



AND IN RETURN, I PRESENT YOU WITH **THIS RING**...WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO DO EVERYTHING YOU MIGHT DO IN YOUR REAL-LIFE FORM... SO THAT YOU MAY BATTLE MORDO!



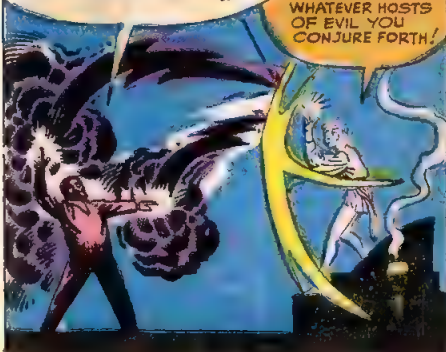
AS FOR ME, I AM OLD AND WEARY! BUT I SHALL PERMIT YOU TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF TO RESEMBLE ME, FOR YOU SHALL BATTLE MORDO IN MY PLACE!



YOU WERE A FOOL TO TELL ME, STRANGE. NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, I KNOW I CAN **STILL** DEFEAT YOU!



I CALL UPON ALL THE SHADOWY SHAPES, ALL THE DREAD POWERS OF THE MIGHTY DORMAMMU TO COME TO MY AID!!



AND I CALL UPON MY ENCHANTED RING TO SHIELD ME FROM WHATEVER HOSTS OF EVIL YOU CONJURE FORTH!

BY THE POWER OF THE VISHANTI!...IN THE NAME OF THE ALL-SEEING ANCIENT ONE...I SUMMON ALL THE FORCES OF GOOD...AND FOCUS THEIR BLINDING POWER UPON YOU, THROUGH THE FACETS OF THIS RING!



NO! NO! I CANNOT BEAR TO LOOK AT IT!

TAKE IT AWAY! ITS BRIGHTNESS IS APALLING TO ME!



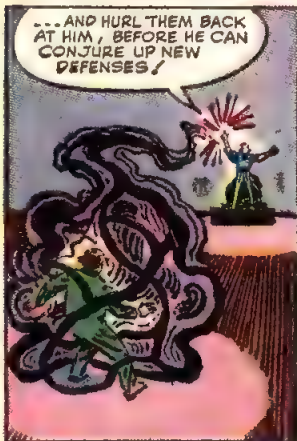
BUT NO MATTER WHERE THE EVIL MORDO TURNS, THE RAYS OF THE ENCHANTED LIGHT REACH OUT AND BATHE HIM IN THEIR BRILLIANT GLOW!



IT IS JUST AS THE ANCIENT ONE HAS EVER SAID! THE POWER OF GOOD SHALL ALWAYS BANISH EVIL! NOW I SHALL GATHER ALL THE SINISTER SPELLS OF MORDO...



...AND HURL THEM BACK AT HIM, BEFORE HE CAN CONJURE UP NEW DEFENSES!



TAKEN BY SHEER SURPRISE... STRUCK BY THE FORCE AND FURY OF THE SPELLS HE HAD TRIED TO DEFEAT DR. STRANGE WITH... BARON MORDO IS CAST OUT OF THE ANCIENT ONE'S CASTLE, IN COMPLETE DEFEAT!



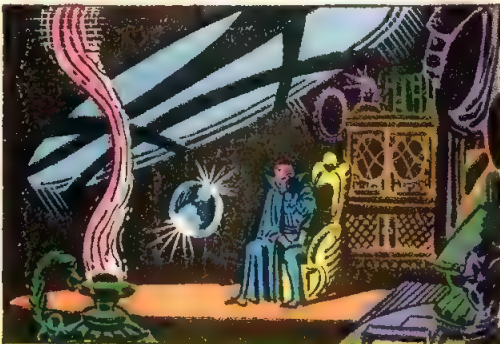
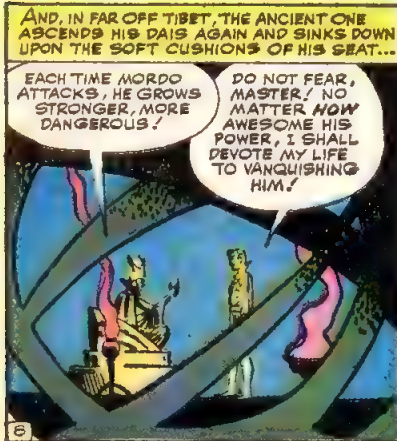
AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE EVIL SPELLS HE HAD CAST ARE BROKEN, AND THE HOME OF DR. STRANGE REAPPEARS IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE, AS THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC ONCE AGAIN REGAINS HIS PHYSICAL FORM!



AND, IN FAR OFF TIBET, THE ANCIENT ONE ASCENDS HIS DAIS AGAIN AND SINKS DOWN UPON THE SOFT CUSHIONS OF HIS SEAT...

EACH TIME MORDO ATTACKS, HE GROWS STRONGER, MORE DANGEROUS!

DO NOT FEAR, MASTER! NO MATTER HOW AWESOME HIS POWER, I SHALL DEVOTE MY LIFE TO VANQUISHING HIM!



BUT, AS DR. STRANGE RETURNS TO HIS SILENT ABODE IN GREENWICH VILLAGE, LITTLE DOES HE DREAM THAT HIS NEXT THREAT WILL NOT COME FROM BARON MORDO... BUT FROM A FAR DIFFERENT, A FAR STRANGER MENACE... AS WE SHALL SEE NEXT ISSUE!!

The End

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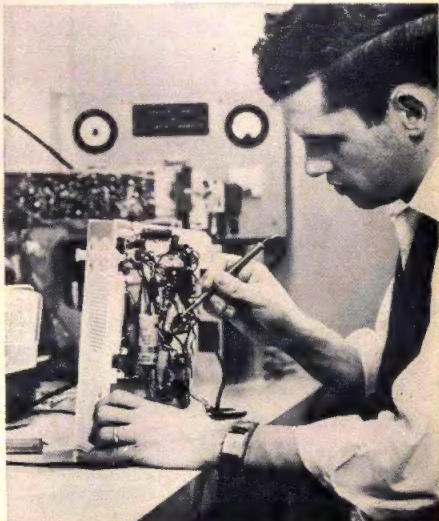
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